

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS GLORIA MOLINA AND
YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE

July 8, 2003

The County of Los Angeles ("the County") contracts with Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) for the placement of children who are the victims of abuse and neglect and who require specialized services.

Existing contracts between the County and 68 FFAs expire on August 31, 2003. Pursuant to State regulations, the current contracts may be extended to October 31, 2003 if an extension of time is necessary to complete a new bidding and contract negotiation process.

Since September 2002, the County has been involved in protracted negotiations with FFA representatives. Resolution has not been reached with respect to several issues, such as the County's right to conduct a meaningful audit and the use of funds.

During the negotiations, the parties tentatively agreed to engage in a process to establish a capacity to report on critical FFA outcomes that directly affect the safety, well-being and permanency of the child.

It is essential that any contract between the County and an FFA contain a provision wherein the County has an absolute right to conduct reviews of the use of funds for possible fiscal abuse as it relates to quality of life issues for children placed in group homes and FFAs.

MOTION

Molina	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Knabe	_____
Antonovich	_____
Burke	_____

The existing contracts between the County and the FFAs require that, prior to requesting to discharge a child who has been placed with an FFA, the FFA and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) conduct a case conference. It is essential that any new contract between the County and an FFA contain a provision wherein a case conference is conducted to ensure that all reasonable efforts are made to stabilize a child's placement and to determine whether any additional services may be provided to the child, without resorting to an unnecessary and traumatizing replacement of a child from an FFA home.

As the County has devoted significant resources to a very lengthy, protracted contract negotiation process, which has failed to result in full resolution, and as the existing contracts with the FFAs are approaching expiration, and as the County must take appropriate measures to ensure continued care for the children in its custody;

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that any contract between the County and an FFA contain a provision wherein the County has an absolute right to conduct reviews of the use of funds for possible fiscal abuse as it relates to quality of life issues for children placed in group homes and FFAs.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that any contract between the County and an FFA contain the appropriate provision to ensure that all reasonable efforts are made to stabilize a child's placement and to determine whether any additional services may be provided to the child, without resorting to an unnecessary and traumatizing replacement of a child from an FFA home.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that any contract between the County and an FFA contain a provision committing the FFA to participate in the collection and reporting of outcome data related to child safety, well being, and permanency.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board instruct the Director of DCFS to report to this Board no later than July 22, 2003 whether the FFAs will accept the terms of a new contract.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that, in the event that the FFAs do not accept the terms of a new contract, the Board instruct the Director of DCFS to report to this Board no later than July 22, 2003 on the feasibility of releasing a solicitation document (e.g., Request for Proposals, Request for Statement of Qualifications) to procure FFA services.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board instruct the Director of DCFS to report to this Board no later than July 22, 2003 on the feasibility of releasing solicitation documents in the future to procure FFA services, and whether such an approach would enable the County to increase its quality of service to our society's most needy children.

MMA/sf